Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States



Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<u>DLCA REMINDS THE PUBLIC OF ONGOING</u> PUBLISHER CLEARING HOUSE TELEPHONE SCAM

(*U.S. Virgin Islands*) — The Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) Commissioner, Richard T. Evangelista, reminds Consumers, there are individuals posing as representatives of Publishers Clearing House (PCH) stating the consumer won a large amount of cash. In return, the Consumer must provide their Social Security and Driver's License to the individual as proof of identity to collect their cash prize. If you receive a similar call, hang up or simply do not respond. This is a SCAM.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine new technology with old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. Identity thieves get your personal information by:

- Stealing wallets, purses, and your mail (bank and credit card statements, pre-approved credit offers, new checks, and tax information):
- Stealing personal information you provide to an unsecured site online, from business or personnel records at work, and personal information in your home;
- Rummaging through your trash, the trash of businesses, and public trash dumps for personal data;
- Posing by phone or email as someone who legitimately needs information about you, such as employers or landlords; or
- Buying personal information from "inside" sources. For example, an identity thief may
 pay a store employee for information about you that appears on an application for goods,
 services, or credit.

If you suspect that you or someone are a victim of identity theft, please contact your local authorities and report said theft to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) online at IdentityTheft.gov or by phone at 1-877-438-4338. The FTC will collect the details of your situation. For ways on how to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft visit www.usa.gov.

